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REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of September 14, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 16 and 44 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-35, 40-47 and 50-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,946,831 ("Kearns"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Kearns describes a distributed on-line data communications for electronic commerce applications (Abstract). A distributed on-line data communications system 22 supports application processes implementing event-driven applications, the processes including a system monitor and its backup 24, a control point 26, a command facility 28 and line handlers 30 (FIG. 2, col. 4, lines 15-25). System 22 further includes a system library 35 which contains a set of routines that are used by all system processes and all application processes 36 (*id.*). The system library routines 35 provide interface procedures for performing basic functions and are bound or compiled with system and application processes (col. 4, lines 26-43). A system configuration database 37 contains logical names, physical addresses and backup process identities of all processes in the system 22 (col. 5, lines 32-40). The contents of the configuration database 37 can be modified by commands from the command facility 28 (col. 5, lines 35-37). The system monitor 24 monitors all system processes for status information, such as whether the processes are functioning (col. 5, lines 9-11). The system monitor 24 marks a node as down in the configuration database (col. 15, lines 1-7). A backup node is then used to carry on the transactional load of the failed node (col. 15, lines 8-16).

Claim 1 recites a scalable enterprise application collaboration system. The system includes a central host configured to manage a plurality of reusable distributed objects, send configuration change alerts to the plurality of reusable distributed objects and provide configuration data to the plurality of reusable distributed objects.

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Kearns describes a system 22 in communication with a database that stores logical names and physical names of processes and devices. The logical names and physical addresses of the devices are used when the processes and node communicate. The system monitor monitors the processes to determine whether the nodes are functioning and marks nodes as down in the configuration database. Kearns does not describe the system monitor 24, or any other component, as capable of sending configuration change alerts to the system library or any other applications within the system. Kearns also does not describe the system monitor 24 as managing a plurality of reusable distributed objects. As discussed above, the system configuration library stores names and addresses and whether a node is functioning, rather than configuration data. Thus, Kearns fails to describe a central host configured to manage a plurality of reusable distributed objects, send configuration change alerts to the plurality of reusable distributed objects and provide configuration data to the plurality of reusable distributed objects. Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over Kearns.

Claim 2 recites a method of centrally managing distributed components. The method includes storing in a computer system a central registry database including configuration information related to distributed components, wherein the configuration information includes at least one of data translation or scheduling. Requests are received from the distributed components in an enterprise application system for configuration information updates, each distributed component communicating with one or more enterprise applications. The configuration changes are allocated to the corresponding distributed components.

As described above, the system configuration database 37 stores names and addresses of processes and nodes, as well as whether the processes and nodes are up or down. The system library 35 maintains data that contains information to perform routing and receiving services for application processes. However, Kearns does not disclose storing in a computer system a central registry database including configuration information related to distributed components. Further, Kearns does not describe receiving requests from distributed components for configuration information updates. The system monitor 24 monitors the systems and sends status updates to the configuration database, but does not send out configuration changes. Additionally, Kearns

does not describe a component allocating configuration changes to corresponding distributed components. For at least these reasons, claim 2 is allowable over Kearns. Claims 3-8 and 46-47 depend directly or indirectly from claim 2 and are similarly allowable over Kearns.

Claim 16 also requires storing in a first computer system a central registry database containing configuration information related to a first distributed component located in a first remote computer system and a second distributed component located in a second remote computer system, wherein the first distributed component communicates with a first enterprise application and the second distributed component communicates with a second enterprise application. Requests from at least one of the first distributed component or the second distributed component in an enterprise application system for a configuration update are received. Configuration changes to be implemented are determined in response to the requests. For at least the reasons provided with respect to claim 2, claim 16 is allowable over Kearns.

Claim 9 recites a method of centrally managing distributed components. The method includes receiving at a first computer system data translation and messaging configuration information from a configuration information input module wherein the configuration information is accessed and modified by a user and sent to the first computer system. Configuration changes to be implemented in response to the data translation and messaging configuration information are determined. The configuration changes are transferred to corresponding distributed components wherein the configuration changes are implemented in the corresponding distributed components.

Although Kearns describes a configuration database 37 that includes names and addresses and status, Kearns does not describe information in the configuration database as configurations of distributed components or that the configuration information is translation information. Thus, Kearns does not describe a first computer system that receives data translation and messaging configuration information from a configuration information input module wherein the configuration information is accessed and modified by a user and sent to the first computer system. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that claim 9 is allowable over Kearns. Claims 10-15 depend directly from claim 9 and are similarly not anticipated by Kearns.

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Claim 23 recites a distributed enterprise application integration system including a central control module stored in a first computer, the central control module including a central registry database used to store configuration data about a distributed enterprise application system. The central control module is configured to process requests for component configuration updates, process changes for the central registry database, and forward component configuration data to a plurality of distributed components. The plurality of distributed components include corresponding component control modules. The plurality of distributed components are configured to communicate with one or more enterprise applications and perform data related and messaging activities in compliance with component configuration data. The component control modules are configured to communicate with the central control module to send changes to the central registry database

Kearns describes the control point 26 as the sole maintainer of the system configuration database 37 (col. 7, lines 66-67; col. 8, lines 1-2). The other components in the system are not described as being configured to send changes to the central registry database. Kearns does not describe a plurality of distributed components including corresponding component control modules that send changes to the central registry database, as required by claim 23. Applicant submits that claim 23 is not anticipated by Kearns. Claims 24-27 and 50-51 depend directly or indirectly from claim 23 and are similarly not anticipated by Kearns.

Claim 28 recites a distributed, multi-platform application integration system. The system includes a central host including a central registry system, a plurality of application hosts and a plurality of multi-platform applications. The plurality of application hosts include corresponding control brokers wherein the control brokers are configured to communicate with the central registry system to receive configuration data.

Kearns describes system monitors at nodes that send handshakes to system monitors at other nodes (col. 14, lines 35-54). If no response is received from the other node, the sending node determines that the other node is down (col. 14, lines 54-67). The handshake process only indicates the status of a system. No configuration information is exchanged. Thus, Kearns does not describe a plurality of application hosts that include corresponding control brokers wherein

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the control brokers are configured to communicate with the central registry system to receive configuration data. Applicant submits that claim 28 is not anticipated by Kearns. Claims 29-35 depend directly from claim 28 and are similarly allowable over Kearns.

Claim 40 recites a method for integrating distributed applications. The method includes managing requests for configuration changes from at least a first distributed component servicing distributed applications in an enterprise application system and collecting configuration change information from a plurality of distributed components related to the requests for configuration changes.

Kearns does not describe configuration change information or that configuration change information is collected from a plurality of distributed components in the system. Kearns describes the system monitor 24 as determining a status of a node and sending the status to the system configuration database (col. 14, lines 42-53; col. 15, lines 8-15). However, the status of a node is not the node's configuration. Kearns fails to suggest or disclose managing requests for configuration changes from at least a first distributed component servicing distributed applications in an enterprise application system and collecting configuration change information from a plurality of distributed components related to the requests for configuration changes. Applicant submits that claim 40 is allowable over Kearns.

Clam 41 recites a method for integrating distributed applications. The method includes sending requests for data-related and messaging-related configuration changes from a first host to a central host. At the first host, configuration change information is received from the central host related to the requests for configuration changes. At the first host, data translation and messaging configuration changes are implemented according to the configuration change information.

Kearns does not suggest or disclose a method including receiving configuration change information from a central host related to requests for data-related and messaging-related configuration changes. Further, Kearns does not suggest or disclose data translation and messaging configuration changes that are implemented according to configuration change information. Applicant submits that claim 41 is allowable over Kearns.

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Claim 42 recites a method of integrating a plurality of multi-platform applications located on a distributed network. The method includes providing a plurality of integration modules corresponding to a plurality of multi-platform applications, wherein the plurality of integration modules perform data-related and messaging activities enabling communication among the plurality of multi-platform applications. A central host module is provided that includes a central database of configuration data, wherein the central host module manages and distributes configuration data to the plurality of integration modules, wherein the configuration data includes instructions for allowing communication among the plurality of multi-platform applications.

Kearns describes the control point 26 as communicating with all processes via a token-oriented message standard that allows for interface with command facilities on multiple platforms (col. 8, lines 6-10). The command facility 28 formats and presents information relayed by control point 26 in a manner that is appropriate for the chosen platform in a display format (col. 8, lines 10-13). The command facilities 28 present the information to a display device 42 for a human operator to view. Kearns does not, however, describe that nodes within the system as being multi-platform, nor that communication between multi-platform applications is enabled. Kearns does not suggest or disclose distributing configuration data to the plurality of integration modules. For at least these reason, Applicant submits that claim 42 is allowable over Kearns. Claim 43 depends directly from claim 42 and is similarly allowable over Kearns.

Claim 44 recites a method of implementing a distributed application system. The method includes creating a representation of a first set of data that is sent from a first independent application to a data translation module, translated into a second set of data, and forwarded to a second independent application and converting the representation into sets of data translation and messaging instructions.

Kearns describes line handlers that process messages by receiving a request to operate on a logical unit, finding the logical unit assigned to the message in a status table, calling custom code to execute protocol-dependent functions, modifying the message according to the protocol, and sending the message out (col. 9, lines 40-61). However, Kearns does not describe

converting the representation into sets of data translation and messaging instructions. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that claim 44 is allowable over Kearns.

Claim 45 recites a distributed application integration system. The system includes a central host means for representing collective configuration information and a central host means for allocating portions of the collective configuration information to a plurality of application hosts wherein the plurality of application hosts communicate with a plurality of corresponding multi-platform applications and the plurality of application hosts implement the portions of the collective information to enable communication among the plurality of corresponding multi-platform applications.

Kearns describes a system with a configuration database 37. However, the system does not send or distribute configuration information to other components. Further, the system does not allocate configuration information to other components. Therefore, Kearns does not describe a means for allocating portions of collective configuration information to a plurality of corresponding multi-platform applications. Moreover, Kearns does not describe applications hosts that implement portions of the collective information to enable communication among the plurality of corresponding multi-platform applications. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 45 is allowable over Kearns.

Claim 52 recites an article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable instructions. The instructions cause a computer to send requests for data-related and messaging-related configuration changes from a first host to a central host. At the first host, configuration change information is received from the central host related to the requests for configuration changes. At the first host, data translation and messaging configuration changes are implemented according to the configuration change information.

Kearns describes the configuration information stored in the configuration database as including logical names, physical addresses and backup process identities. Kearns does not describe the processes or nodes as requesting data translation and messaging configuration changes. Kearns thus does not suggest or disclose instructions to receive configuration change

information from a central host related to requests for data-related and messaging-related configuration changes. Applicant submits that claim 52 is allowable over Kearns.

Claim 53 recites an article comprising a computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable instructions. The instructions cause a computer to manage requests for configuration changes from at least a first distributed component servicing distributed applications in an enterprise application system and collecting configuration change information from a plurality of distributed components related to the requests for configuration changes.

Kearns describes a command facility that is used to modify a system configuration database 37. Configuration change information is not collected from a plurality of distributed components in the system 22. Thus, Kearns fails to suggest or disclose instructions to collect configuration change information from a plurality of distributed components related to the requests for configuration changes. Applicant submits claim 53 is allowable over Kearns.

Claim 54 recites a distributed enterprise application integration system with a means for storing a central registry database and means for communicating with one or more enterprise applications. The means for storing a central registry database is used to store configuration data about a distributed enterprise application system, wherein the means for storing the central registry database is configured to process requests for configuration updates, process changes for the central registry database, and forward configuration data to a plurality of means for communicating with one or more enterprise applications.

As described above, Kearns does not describe a means for storing a central registry database that is configured to forward configuration data to a plurality of means for communicating with one or more enterprise applications. Applicant submits that claim 54 is allowable over Kearns.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kearns. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

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Claims 36-39 each depend directly from claim 28. As described above, Kearns does not teach or suggest a plurality of application hosts including corresponding control brokers wherein the control brokers are configured to communicate with the central registry system to receive configuration data. Applicant submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been made with respect to claims 36-39.

Claim 48 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kearns in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,457,797 (Butterworth). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.
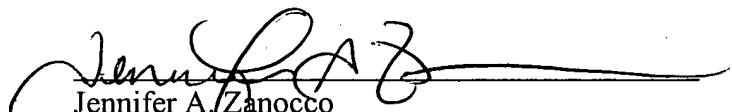
Claim 48 depends indirectly from claim 2. Both Kearns and Butterworth fail to suggest or disclose receiving requests from distributed components for configuration information updates. For at least this reason, Applicant submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been made with respect to claim 48.

No fee is believed to be due. If, however, there are any charges or credits, please apply them to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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